

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1366

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Rachel Hawkins upon her recent selection as a 2008 Presidential Scholar.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves both in the classroom and in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Hawkins of Gallatin, Tennessee is one such exceptional student who was recently named a Presidential Scholar by the United States Department of Education and who will be honored in Washington, D.C., on June 21-24, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Scholars program is extremely competitive; of the three million students expected to graduate from high school, only 3,000 candidates qualified. From those 3,000 candidates, the twenty-nine-member Commission on Presidential Scholars chose 139 students from across the nation, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. families living abroad, in addition to fifteen chosen at large and twenty Presidential Scholars in the Arts; and

WHEREAS, established in 1964 by Executive Order of the President of the United States to recognize and honor the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors, the Presidential Scholar program was expanded in 1979 to recognize those students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts; and

WHEREAS, over the last forty plus years, this unique program has honored over 5,000 Presidential Scholars who have demonstrated leadership, citizenship, scholarship, and service to school and community; and

WHEREAS, the Scholars represent academic excellence and the promise of greatness in young people; in honoring the Presidential Scholars, the President of the United States symbolically honors all graduating high school seniors of high potential; and

WHEREAS, a senior at Gallatin High School, where she is highly regarded by her peers, Rachel has achieved an exemplary 5.1304 grade point average and is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist; her selection as a Presidential Scholar is truly a testament to her impeccable academic record; and

WHEREAS, a valuable participant in her school's activities and her community's affairs, Rachel Hawkins is a member of several academic, social, and civic organizations; she has served as Captain for the Academic Team; Co-President of the Tennessee Tomorrow Club; field commander and first chair flutist with the marching band; Defense Captain of the Mock Trial Team, for which she won District Best Defense Attorney; and Speaker of the House of Volunteer Girls' State; and

WHEREAS, her other activities include Model United Nations, Student Council, and the Gallatin High School Math Team, for which she placed first in the Algebra II competition at the regional level; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Hawkins faithfully attends First United Methodist Church, where she is an active and devout member of the youth group and choir, as well as the youth praise team and adult choir; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hawkins's display of intellectual aptitude and ambition surely bodes well for her future success as a student at Harvard University, where she plans to continue her education by studying biology, mathematics, and literature; and

WHEREAS, Rachel's noteworthy achievement is a tremendous source of pride for her family, her school, and her community; this honor is also a tribute to her teachers, especially Ms. Jennifer Moore, who will join Rachel at the ceremonies in Washington and receive a Teacher Recognition Award; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Hawkins's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Rachel Hawkins for her recent selection as a 2008 Presidential Scholar and extend to her our best wishes for every future success in college and beyond.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.